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present educational disabilities. It is true they will not give us perfection. But what is perfection, and who wants it? Perfection, so I fancy, for I never have seen it, is in this like truth, that there is more pleasure in seeking than in finding it. Besides, man, for whom we are doing it all, is imperfect, though the extent thereof depends upon the point from which we view him. If one were to look down upon him from the place of the angels towards which he likes to believe he is ascending, he must seem a very poor creature, deserving only of pity. But if one looks up after him from the place of the beasts from which we know he has risen, then he looms as a very grand figure, worthy of credit and honor. After all, perfect or imperfect, good, bad or indifferent, he is the very best thing of which we are sure. It behooves us, therefore, to make the most of him.

SMITH COLLEGE

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. John Burroughs has recently received an honorary degree, LL.D., from Yale University.

Dr. Ernst A. Bessy, of the Louisiana State University, has been made professor of botany at the Michigan Agricultural College.

Dr. J. E. Kirkwood has been advanced to professor-in-charge of the new department of botany and forestry at the University of Montana.

Professor H. H. Rusby, while continuing his rubber investigations in Mexico, is collecting economic and medicinal material for the New York Botanical Garden.

At the New York Botanical Garden the four o'clock lectures which will be continued into September include the following: "Edible Mushrooms," by W. A. Murrill, August 6; "Influences which Govern Local Distribution of Plants," by Norman Taylor, August 13; "Botanical Cruises among the Bahamas," by Dr. M. A. Howe, August 20; "Grasses and their Economic Importance," by George V. Nash, August 27; "Poisonous Mushrooms," by Dr. W. A. Murrill, September 3; and "European Influences in the History of American Botany," by Dr. J. H. Barnhart, September 10.